

LOUISIANA FOREST LANDOWNER



Cost-Share Programs
and
Forest Management
Assistance

SOURCES OF FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION

The **Louisiana Office of Forestry**, in the Department of Agriculture & Forestry, assists landowners in ways ranging from providing information to providing forest management guidance and/or providing, to a limited degree, technical assistance. A brochure outlining these services is available on request. Contact: Louisiana Office of Forestry, Post Office Box 1628, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, or any local office of the agency.

Employment of a **Consulting Forester** is a good investment for many landowners, especially at harvest time--and full time for those who have sizable acreage. Studies by a forest economics professor at the University of Georgia showed that landowners who had the assistance of professional foresters in managing their lands obtained 66 percent more income per acre with less volume cut than landowners who did not have the services of professional foresters. In addition to receiving greater income (more than enough to offset any consultant fees paid), they had more volume left standing after harvest and more regeneration per acre for future benefits.

Several **Forest Products Companies** have programs to provide forest management guidance and technical assistance to private, non-industrial forestland owners. Agreements vary, but, typically, a landowner's only obligation is to permit the assisting company to offer a bid on the timber at harvest time. Information on these programs is available directly from companies which sponsor them or from the Louisiana Office of Forestry or the Louisiana Forestry Association.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Louisiana Forestry Association
Post Office Drawer 5067
Alexandria, LA 71307-5067

Natural Resource Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
(or local NRCS offices)

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
Louisiana State University, Knapp Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1900
(or local parish or area forestry agents)

Farm Service Agency
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
(or local FSA offices)



FORESTRY COST-SHARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO LOUISIANA FORESTLAND OWNERS

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) -- provides up to 50 percent of the cost for site preparation and tree planting, timber stand improvement, or site preparation for natural regeneration. It is a federal program administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Maximum of \$5,000 per year per owner.

Who is eligible? Private, non-industrial landowners who have 1,000 or fewer acres of eligible forestland that is capable of producing marketable timber crops and meets minimum productivity standards. Minimum acreage for FIP participation is ten acres.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) -- a land retirement program designed to reduce soil erosion; administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Landowners submit bids for annual rental payments during announced sign-up periods. Contracts are for 10 or 15 year periods. Permanent vegetative cover, which includes trees, must be established and maintained for the contract period and cannot be harvested or grazed during that time. Maximum of \$50,000 in rentals per year per owner.

In addition to rental payments, landowners may receive 50 percent of the cost of cover establishment.

Who is eligible? Landowners who have cropland that is highly erodible; that has been cultivated for at least two of the past five years; and that is still available for crop production. Minimum acreage is ten acres (with some exceptions). There is no individual maximum on acreage ownership for CRP participation.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

(EQIP) -- The goal of EQIP is to address resource concerns on cropland that will sustain agricultural productivity, provide for continued resource uses, improve aquatic and wetlands habitats, and protect ground water. It is a federal program administered by the FSA. Maximum of \$3,500 per year per owner.

Who is eligible? Private, non-industrial landowners who own land that needs a protective cover established or improvements made to minimize soil erosion or improve water quality. No minimum or maximum acreage requirements for EQIP participation.

Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) -- provides up to approximately 50 percent of the cost of carrying out certain forest management practices to achieve Forest Stewardship objectives, including tree planting, timber stand improvement, establishing wildlife food plots, site preparation and others. It is a federal program administered by the Louisiana Office of Forestry. Cost-share maximum of \$5,000 per year per owner.

Who is eligible? Private, non-industrial landowners who are participating in the Forest Stewardship Program and who own 1,000 or fewer acres of forestland. To participate in the Forest Stewardship Program, a landowner must have ten or more acres of forestland and must be managing that land for at least two of the designated Stewardship objectives. (The "maximum of 1,000 acres of forestland" does not apply to participation in the Forest Stewardship Program in general, only to cost-share eligibility.)

Louisiana Office of Forestry district headquarters:

District 1	47076 N Morrison Boulevard Hammond, LA 70401-7309 (504) 543-4057
District 2	Post Office Box 459 Oberlin, LA 70655 (318) 639-4978
District 3	Post Office Box 578 Olla, LA 71465 (318) 495-5218
District 4	Post Office Box 550 Minden, LA 71058-0550 (318) 371-3007
District 5	122 St. John St., Room 329 Monroe, LA 71201-7338 (318) 362-3141
District 6	4089 Highway 6 Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318) 357-3126
District 7	Post Office Box 337 DeRidder, LA 70634 (318) 463-7801
District 10	Post Office Box 8 Clinton, LA 70722 (504) 683-5862

Information compiled by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Office of Forestry.

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All facilities, programs, and services of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry are available to all persons. Discrimination is prohibited and should be reported to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

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